coverage of the State. The details of action plan and areas or States to be covered can be stated only on enactment of the Bill.

Health Insurance Scheme

†1260. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that common man has to bear heavy expenditure on health care;

(b) if so, Government's policy regarding Health Insurance Scheme; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken towards the difficulties of the common man with regard to health-related problems?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced the National Health Policy, 2002 during this year. The main objective of this policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country by adopting the approach of increasing access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas, and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. The Policy recognises the need for a social health insurance scheme funded by the Government and with service delivery through the private sector to help the poor people in the country regarding their health care needs.

(c) Health is a State subject. State Governments take necessary steps to improve their health care delivery system including establishment of vast network of primary health care institutions as per the prescribed norms. Union Government is implementing National Disease Control Programmes for control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health. Provision of free drugs is an important component of various disease control programmes. To provide quality health care services to the people especially the poor and the underserved, health infrastructure is being upgraded under the State Health Systems Projects which is presently being implemented in seven States with World Bank assistance.

Unhygienic conditions of general ward of Safdarjung Hospital

1261. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Incharge in the General Ward of Safdarjung Hospital takes timely rounds;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.